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Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-09

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 OES-09 EB-08 CEQ-01 OIC-02
SS-15 SP-02 INR-10 PM-05 /072 W
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9984
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 5599

STADIS//////////////////

FOR/D/LOS BERLIND FROM AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PLOS, BR
SUBJECT: LOS - POSSIBLE MARITIME POLLUTION CONFERENCE

1. ON JULY 22 AND 23 I MET WITH FOLLOWING OFFICIAL OF SAO PAULO STATE GOVERNMENT CONCERNED WITH MARINE POLLUTION CONTROL: STATE SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS AND ENVIRONMENT DR. FERNANDO DE BARROS; EXECUTIVE SECRETARY CARLOS CELSO, OF THE TECHNOLOGICAL COMPANY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SANITATION (COMPANHIA DE TECHNOLOGICA DE SANEAMENTO AMBIENTAL -- CETESB); AND CETESB RESEARCH DIRECTOR DR. IVANILDO HESPANHOL. DURING COURSE OF MEETINGS CETESB OFFICIALS SOUGH COOPERATION IN OBTAINING U.S. TECHNOLOGY AND RESULTS OF U.S. RESEARCH IN AREA OF MARINE POLLUTION CONTROL. OFFICIALS POINTED OUT THAT THE BRAZILIAN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY HAS TEN YEARS EXPERIENCE IN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, HAS DEVELOPED A QUALIFIED PROFESSIONAL STAFF, AND IS FINALLY READY TO ABSORB ADVANCED TECHNIQUES OF POLLUTION CONTROL ALREADY DEVISED BY OTHER COUNTRIES.

2. WE EXPLORED THE POSSIBLITY OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
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MARINE POLLUTION CONTROL SPONSORED BY BRAZIL WITH TECHNICAL SUPPORT BY THE U.S. OR JOINTLY SPONSORED BY BOTH COUNTRIES. SUCH A CONFERENCE, TO BE HELD POSSIBLE IN RIO, WOULD FOCUS BRAZILIAN ATTENTION ON THE POLLUTION ISSUE, FACILITATE THE TRANSFER OF POLLUTION CONTROL TECHNIQUES THROUGH PROFESSIONAL CONTACTS, AND INVOLVE ALL NATIONS HAVING NEW TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES TO DISCUSS.

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3. FROM U.S. POINT OF VIEW, COOPERATION WITH BRAZIL ON A NEUTRAL SUBJECT LIKE MARINE POLLUTION COULD HAVE INDIRECT BENEFITS FOR U.S.-BRAZILIAN RELATIONSHIP. THIS POTENTIAL MIGHT BE ENHANCED BY COLLABORATION ON A CONFERENCE. ANY APPROACH ON A CONFERENCE WOULD CREATE NEED AS WELL AS OPPORTUNITY FOR ADVANCE COORDINATON WITH THE APPROPRIATE NATIONAL ENTITIES, SUCH AS THE BRAZILIAN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, THE MINISTRY OF THE NAVY AND THE MARITIME COMMISSION IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT.

4. AN AFFIRMATIVE RESPONSE TO BRAZILIAN INTEREST IN COOPERATION ON MARINE ENVIRONMENT COULD HAVE THE FURTHER ADVANTAGE OF OPENING A WAY TOWARD DEVELOPING SUPPORT FROM BRAZILIAN SCIENTISTS FOR OUR POSITION ON MARINE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH. I HINTED AT THIS AS A POSSIBLE QUID PRO QUO.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO HAVE UPON MY RETURN AN OUTLINE OF PAST COOPERATION BETWEEN CETESB/GOB ON ONE HAND AND THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA) ON THE OTHER. CONRAD KLEVENO OF EPA IS AWARE OF PAST COLLABORATION, INCLUDING THE PARTICIPATION OF THE U.S. COAST GUARD IN LIMITING DAMANGE OF OIL SPILLS IN BRAZILIAN WATERS.
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